

9.0 GLOSSARY

A

Adjacent Track:

In relation to excepted track and for the purposes of the Track Safety Standards, any track or tracks next to a track that is designated as an excepted track. Any tracks with centerlines that are 30 feet or closer to the excepted track in question are considered as adjacent and speeds on those tracks must not exceed 10 mph.

Advanced Signal:

A fixed signal used in connection with one or more signals to govern the approach of a train or engine to such signal.

Adverse:

Negative or detrimental.

Affected Environment:

The physical, biological, social, and economic setting potentially affected by one or more of the alternatives being considered.

Air Quality:

A measure of the concentrations of pollutants, measured individually, in the air.

Alignment:

The horizontal and vertical general location for the centerline of railroad tracks or a roadway within study corridors.

Alignment Alternatives:

The general location for tracks, structures and systems for the system between logical points within study corridors.

Alternative:

As used in the transportation analysis in this EIS, a variation of a rail corridor segment to mitigate a potential adverse environmental or engineering factor. See *variation*, *option*, *corridor*.

AREMA:

American Railway Engineering and Maintenance Association. North American body for determination of railway engineering standards.

At Grade:

At ground surface level; a term used to describe roadways, river crossings, and track alignments.

Attainment:

An air basin is considered to be in *attainment* for a particular pollutant if it meets the federal or state standards set for that pollutant. See also *Maintenance*, *Nonattainment*.

A-Weighted Sound Level:

A measure of sound intensity that is weighted to approximate the response of the human ear, so it describes the way sound will affect people in the vicinity of a noise source.

B

Ballast:

Rock, gravel or other granular material placed on a road bed to support cross ties and rails and to aid in holding the desired track geometry.

Borrow:

Material, such as sand and gravel, which is extracted from an excavation or pit area that can be used to fill another site.

Branch:

A portion of a division designated by a time table. Rules and instructions pertaining to subdivisions apply on branches.

Branch Line:

A secondary, local or feeder line of railway connecting with the main line; also any line other than a main line. See Main Line.

Branch Line Tracks:

These are secondary line track(s) on a railway. Trains and engines might be operated with or without time table, train order, or block signal.

BNSF:

BNSF Railway Company.

C

Capital Cost:

The total cost of acquiring an asset or constructing a project.

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂):

A colorless, odorless gas that occurs naturally in the earth's atmosphere; significant quantities are also emitted into the air by fossil fuel combustion.

Carbon Monoxide (CO):

A colorless, odorless gas that is generated in the urban environment, primarily by the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels in motor vehicles.

Classes of Track:

A categorization of track based on the maximum allowable operating speed.

Classification:

The act of switching rail cars for sorting, segregating or grouping according to their kind, contents or destination.

Classification Yard:

A set of tracks where rail cars are sorted, segregated or grouped according to their kind, contents or destination.

Clearance Limits:

The dimensions beyond which the size of, or projections of a shipment may not extend in order to clear such things as switch stands, platforms, tunnels, and low bridges.

Community Cohesion:

The degree to which residents have a sense of belonging to their neighborhood, a commitment to the community, or a strong attachment to neighbors, groups, and institutions, usually as a result of continued association over time.

Concrete Ties:

Ties made of concrete are gaining wider use as the demand and cost of wood increases. For large-scale projects, the cost for concrete ties is generally comparable to wooden ties. Concrete ties are reported to be stronger and have a longer life than wooden ties, but they lack the elasticity of wood. Some companies use concrete ties on curves or grades where their strength is an asset. Abrasion from the ballast sometimes leads to concrete tie failure. Rail clips are used to fasten the rail concrete ties.

Conductor:

The person officially in charge of the train's overall operation. S/he also does most of the paperwork associated with the handling of the train.

Consist:

A listing showing the train number, the dates and times of departure as well as arrival; the locomotive, radio and caboose number; the initial and car numbers of each car on the train; the billing of these cars; the special handling of the cars and the name of the conductor. It reflects all activities that took place on the movement of cars between any two stations.

Continuous Welded Rail (CWR):

Traditionally, track was laid in lengths of 39' with a joint between each to allow for expansion and contraction due to heat and cold. Joints were points of high maintenance. Continuous Welded Rail typically consists of lengths between 400 and 1,600 feet in length and the joints between them are eliminated by in-place welding using portable equipment. Without joints, expansion and contraction can result in buckling in high temperatures and breaking in cold conditions.

Construction:

Any activity related to building projects, including highways or rail infrastructure (e.g., track, yards, bridges) that directly alters the environment.

Cooperating agency:

Under NEPA, any agency other than the lead agency that has legal jurisdiction over, or technical expertise regarding, environmental impacts associated with a proposed action and has agreed to participate.

Corridor:

A geographic belt or band that follows the general route of a transportation facility (highway, railroad, etc). See also *Study corridors*.

Crossbucks:

A term for railway crossing sign with crossed arms.

Crossing (Track):

A structure, used where one track crosses another at grade, and consisting of four connected frogs. See *Rail Crossing, Diamond*

Crosstown:

The intersection of Main Street (US 278/MS 6) and Gloster Street (MS 145) in central Tupelo, MS.

Cultural Resources:

Resources related to the tangible and intangible aspects of cultural systems, living and dead, that are valued by a given culture or contain information about the culture. These include, but are not limited to sites, structures, buildings, districts, and objects associated with or representative of people, cultures, and human activities and events.

Cumulative Impact:

As defined by NEPA, and impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, reasonably foreseeable future actions.

Curved Track:

Curved track is measured by degrees, with most main track curves falling between 1 and 5 degrees. The degree of curvature is the angle subtended at the center of a simple curve by a 100-foot chord. Curves require more power from locomotives, and the forces present while a train negotiates a curve increases rail and car wear. Stronger track, ties and additional spikes are used in curves in order to take the added loads.

D**Dangerous or Hazardous Goods:**

Articles or substances, which are capable of posing a significant risk to health, safety or property when transported.

Decibel (dB):

A logarithmic measurement of noise intensity.

Dewatering:

The process of removing water from an area or substance, such as fill material.

Diamond:

A place where two railway tracks cross each other.

Division:

A portion of the railroad designated by time table.

E**Electric Switch Lock:**

An electric lock connected with a hand-operated switch to prevent its operation until the lock is released.

Endangered Species:

A species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant part of its range, and has a formal listing of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act.

Engine (Eng):

A unit propelled by any form of energy, or a combination of such units operated from a single control, used in train or yard service.

Environment:

Includes water, air and land and all plants and humans and other animals living therein, and the interrelationship existing among these.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):

A detailed information document that analyzes a project's potential effects and identifies mitigation measures and reasonable alternatives to reduce the significant effects. This document is part of the NEPA environmental review process.

Environmental Justice:

Identifying and addressing the potential for disproportionately high and adverse effects of programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations.

Erosion:

Process by which earth materials are worn down by the action of flowing water, ice, or wind.

Ethnicity:

A grouping or category of people based on shared cultural traits, such as ancestral origin, language, custom or social attitude.

F**Farmland of Local Importance:**

Farmlands that are important to the local agricultural community, as determined by each county's board of supervisors and local advisory committee. See also *Farmland of Statewide Importance*, *Prime Farmland*.

Farmland of Statewide Importance:

Farmlands similar to prime farmlands but that have been evaluated as less valuable because they have steeper slopes, less ability to retain moisture in the soil, or other characteristics that limit their use. To qualify as farmland of statewide importance, a property must have been used for production of irrigated crops at some time during the previous four years.

Federal Railroad Administration (FRA):

A Federal agency attached to the Department of Transportation. The FRA serves as the principal organization for assistance to the Secretary of Transportation on all matters relating to rail transport and safety.

Floodplain:

The lowlands adjoining inland and coastal waters and relatively flat areas and floodprone areas of offshore islands including, at a minimum, that area inundated by a 1% or greater chance flood in any given year. The base floodplain is defined as the 100-year (1.0%) floodplain. The critical action floodplain is defined as the 500-year (0.2%) floodplain.

Flyover:

A bridge that carries one road or rail alignment aerially over another.

G

Gauge (of Track):

The distance between the rails, measured at right angles thereto 5/8 inches below the top of the rail. (Standard gauge is 4 feet 8-1/2 inches or 56-1/2 inches.)

Geographic Information Systems (GIS):

An information management system designed to store and analyze data referenced by spatial or geographic coordinates.

Grade Crossing:

The intersection of a railroad and a highway at the same elevation (grade); an intersection of two or more highways; an intersection of two railroads.

Grade Separated:

At different elevations; on separate levels.

Gross Ton Miles:

The movement in line-haul service of transportation equipment and contents, for a distance of one mile. The weight of the haul is expressed in tons (2,000 pounds).

Gross Ton Miles Per Train Mile:

The number of gross ton miles divided by the number of train miles. Gross ton miles of locomotive and tender are excluded unless otherwise stated.

Ground Vibration:

The rapid linear motion of a compression wave in the ground caused by a single or repeated force or impact to the ground as in the action of a pile driver or a tire hitting a bump or pothole in a road.

Groundwater:

Water contained and transmitted through open spaces in rock and sediment below the ground surface.

H

Habitat:

An environment where plants or animals naturally occur; an ecological setting used by animals for a particular purpose, such as roosting or breeding.

Hazardous Materials:

Cargo that poses a risk to individuals and/or the environment, the movement of which is governed by the Department of Transportation and other regulations. Hazardous Materials (hazmat) include corrosive materials, poisons and explosives among other substances.

High Visual Impact:

Impact sustained if features of a project alternative are very obvious, such that they begin to dominate the landscape and detract from the existing landscape characteristics or scenic qualities.

High/Wide Load:

A load that exceeds clearance limits.

Hours of Service:

A government regulation which determines the number of hours covered employees (defined by law and regulations) may work before going off duty for a specified length of time.

I**Impact:**

For an EIS, the positive or negative effect of an action (past, present, or future) on the natural environment (land use, air quality, water resources, geological resources, ecological resources, aesthetic and scenic resources) and the human environment (infrastructure, economics, social, and cultural).

In-Situ:

In the original or natural position.

Insulated Joint:

A rail joint designed to arrest the flow of electric current from rail to rail by means of insulation so placed as to separate the rail ends and other metal parts connecting them.

Interchange or Interchange Point:

A place where the line of a railway company connects the line of another railway company and where loaded or empty cars may be stored until delivered or received by that other company.

Interlocking:

A configuration of switches and signals interconnected to direct trains along different routes, the limits of which are governed by interlocking signals. An arrangement of interconnected signals and signal appliances for which interlocking rules are in effect. An arrangement of signal appliances so interconnected that their movements must succeed each other in proper sequence. It may be operated manually or automatically. Interlocking consists for most of them of controlled block signals with dual-control switches that are controlled by the dispatcher.

Interlocking Limits:

The tracks between the extreme or outer opposing interlocking signals of an interlocking.

Interlocking Signals:

The fixed signals of an interlocking, governing trains and engines using the interlocking limits.

Intermodal Traffic:

Traffic, which moves in containers, trailers on flatcars. Traffic, which moves in via two or more different modes of transport.

Invasive Species:

An alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

J

Joint Facility:

Two or more railways jointly operating on the same segment of tracks, covered by agreement between the affected railroads.

K

KCS:

Kansas City Southern Railroad

L

Lading:

That which constitutes a load. The freight in a car, vessel, or truck.

Land Use Compatibility Assessment:

An assessment of the compatibility of a proposed project or land use with existing and projected land uses in nearby areas, based on the sensitivity of various land uses to change related to the alternatives and the impact of these changes on the land use.

Lead Agency:

The public agency that has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project or action and is thus responsible for preparing environmental review documents in compliance with NEPA.

L_{eq}:

A measure of the average noise level during a specified period of time.

$L_{eq}(h)$, dBA:

Equivalent or average noise level for the noisiest hour, expressed in A-weighted decibels. See also *A-Weighted Sound Level*.

Level of Service (LOS):

A rating using qualitative measures that characterizes operational conditions within a traffic stream and the perception by motorists and passengers of these conditions.

Limits:

A segment of track that can be controlled by signals or other identifiable means.

Line:

The condition of the track in regard to uniformity in direction over short distances on tangents, or uniformity in variation in direction over short distances on curves.

Line Capacity:

The maximum possible number of trains capable of being operated over a line in one direction. Usually expressed as trains per hour, it will depend on all trains running at the same speed, having equal braking capacity and on how the signaling is arranged.

Local Train:

A train, which stops at all stations, as required, on its route.

Locomotive:

A unit propelled by any energy form, or a combination of such units, operated from a single control, as defined in the railroads Operating Rules (an engine).

Low-Income Population:

One in which 20% or more of the persons in the population live in poverty, as reported by the Bureau of the Census in accordance with Office of Management and Budget requirements. For the purposes of Environmental Justice analysis used in this document, low-income households are considered as those who have an annual household income below 80% of the median income of Tupelo, or a household income of \$28,932 or less.

Low Visual Impact

Impact sustained if features of a project alternative are consistent with the existing line, form, texture, and color of other elements in the landscape and do not stand out.

M

Main Line:

A main line track is the principal line of a given railroad company's rail network. Main lines consist of either single, double or multiple track lines extending between major stations. Trains are operated by time table, train order, or governed by block signals. A track extending through yards and between stations, upon which trains or engines are authorized and operated by time table or train order, or both, or the use of which is governed by block signals by one or more methods of control. May not be occupied without proper authority or protection.

Main Track:

For the purposes of the Track Safety Standards, a track other than an auxiliary track extending through yards and between stations.

Maintenance of Way (MOW):

On-track maintenance of repairing, testing, and inspecting track, including ties, ballast, and rail. MOW work is usually conducted by the Engineering Department of a railway.

Manifest Train:

Manifest traffic refers to the freight trains that carry the bulk of the freight along regularly scheduled runs. Manifest traffic routes are advertised as regularly occurring, yet the actual composition of the train will vary from day to day based upon the specific commodities being shipped. Regularly scheduled mixed freight trains can be referred to as manifest trains.

Mechanical Services:

The railroad's Mechanical Services Department is responsible for the maintenance, repair and inspection of engines and rail cars.

Medium Visual Impact:

Impacts sustained if features of a project alternative are readily discernable but do not dominate the landscape or detract from existing dominant features.

Mile Post:

Post along a railroad right of way, which indicates the distance, in miles, to or from a given point.

Million Gross Tons Of Traffic (MGT):

The total amount of traffic on a track based on the sum of the weight of all trains that operate over the track over a period of one year.

Minority Population:

A community, census block, or block group in which the portion of the population of a racial or ethnic minority is 50% or greater.

Mitigation:

Action or measure undertaken to minimize, reduce, eliminate, or rectify the adverse impacts of a project, practice, action or activity.

MSDEQ:

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

N

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS):

Federal standards stipulating the allowable ambient concentrations of specific criteria pollutants.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):

Federal legislation requiring federal agencies to consider the environmental impacts of major federal projects or decisions, to share information with the public, to identify and assess reasonable alternatives, and to coordinate efforts with other planning and environmental reviews taking place.

Native Species:

With respect to a particular ecosystem, a species that, other than as a result of an introduction, historically occurred or currently occurs in that ecosystem.

No Action:

Under NEPA, refers to an alternative under which no action would be taken (no infrastructure would be built and no new management or operational practices would be instituted).

No-Build Alternative:

Represents the region's (and state's) transportation system (highway, air, and conventional rail) as it is today and with implementation of programs or projects that are in regional transportation plans and have identified funds for implementation by 2030.

Noise:

Any sound that is undesirable because it interferes with speech and hearing; if intense enough, it can damage hearing.

O

On-track Equipment:

A machine that operates on a railway track and is used in connection with construction or work on, or inspection of, a railway track.

Operating Employee:

Means on board train employees directly involved in operating or assisting in the operation of the train, including those employees who are trainee candidates for such positions.

P

Poverty Level:

A federally established income guideline published each year by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service used to define persons who are economically disadvantaged. For 2008, in the contiguous U.S., this level is set at income less than \$21,200 per year for a family of four.

Preferred Alternative:

The alternative identified as preferred by the lead agency.

Prime Farmland:

Land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, oilseed, and other agricultural crops with minimum inputs of fuel, fertilizer, pesticides, and labor, and without intolerable soil erosion.

Pull:

Picking up loaded cars and moving them to switching districts or yards where they will be classified according to destination.

Purpose and Need:

The reason(s) why a project or action is undertaken, and the need(s) it is intended to meet or fulfill.

Q

Qualitative:

With regard to a variable, a parameter, or data, an expression or description of an aspect in terms of non-numeric qualities or attributes.

Quantitative:

A numeric expression or variable.

R

Rail (Track):

A rolled steel shape, commonly a T-section, designed to be laid end to end in two parallel lines on crossties or other suitable supports to form a track for railway rolling stock. It has three main parts:

1. The head that comes into contact with car wheels.
2. The web, which is the thinner, middle part of the rail; and
3. The base.

Rail Anchors:

Rail anchors are fastening devices that put contact pressure on the rail to keep it stationary. Rail anchors are used with CWR to prevent longitudinal movement due to thermal expansion or train movement.

Rail Classification Yard

A railroad switching yard where railcars arriving in inbound freight trains are classified and reassembled according to their routing to make up outbound freight trains.

Rail Fasteners:

Rail fasteners (except for rail anchors) keep the rail in gauge and prevent rail roll over. The weight of the train and the design of the rails keep the rails upright. Rail fasteners also prevent the rail from stretching lengthwise under the force of the train.

Rail Joints:

Rail joints are plates of metal with holes used to join two pieces of rail end-to-end.

Rail Section:

The shape of the end of a rail cut at right angles to its length. The rail mills identify the different shapes and types of rails by code numbers, as for example 131-28 for the 131 RE rail section.

Record of Decision:

A document that provides a concise public record of a decision made by a government agency. Under NEPA, a federal agency must issue a record of decision following the issuance of the final EIS, and explain therein: 1) its decision; 2) the alternatives and reasons for deciding upon them; 3) any significant expected impacts; and 4) a mitigation plan for those impacts.

Resource Study Areas (RSA):

Areas examined for potential environmental impacts as part of the NEPA analysis process. Examples include air quality, hydrology, and biological resources.

Right of Way:

The property owned by a railway company on which tracks have been laid, including the track and land surrounding that track.

S**Set Off (Set Out):**

A car left by a train at a station. Also when a railroad delivers a car to another railroad at one of its terminals so that it can be placed within that terminal.

Scoping:

A process used under NEPA to determine the scope of issues to be addressed and to identify the significant issues related to the proposed action or project to be addressed in an EIS.

Section 4(f):

Provisions originally enacted as Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (23 C.F.R. 771.135) and subsequently codified in 49 U.S.C., Subtitle I, Section 303(c). The Section 4(f) provisions address the potential for conflicts between transportation needs and the protection of lands for recreational use and resource conservation by regulating the use of publicly owned parkland, recreation areas, and historic sites. Specifically, they prohibit the Secretary of Transportation from approving any program or project that would require the use of any publicly owned land from a public park, recreation area, wildlife or waterfowl refuge, or land of an historic site of national significance as determined by the officials having jurisdiction over these lands, unless there are no feasible and prudent alternatives to the use of these lands. In addition, a proposed program or project must include all possible planning to minimize harm resulting from the proposed use.

Shoulder of Track:

The outside portion of the track comprised of the ballast. The width of the shoulder is usually expressed as the level top portion of the ballast up to the point where it begins to slope down.

Siding:

A track auxiliary to the main track, for meeting and passing trains, which is so designated in Timetable, General Bulletin Order, or Dispatchers Operations Bulletin.

Signal:

Visual indication passed to the locomotive engineer to advise the speed, direction or route of the train. Some signals are: engine whistle signals, display of headlights, markers, blue signal protection, signals imperfectly displayed, and emergency protection signals.

Signaled Turnout:

A turnout that is controlled by signals.

Single Track:

One main track upon which trains are operated in both directions.

Slow Order:

A train speed restriction order.

Speed:

Note: speed definitions may vary from one railroad to another and from one country to another. However, for purposes of this document, *speed* has the following meanings:

Limited Speed: A speed not exceeding 45 mph.

Maximum Authorized Speed: The fastest speed that trains are permitted to operate over a track as designated in a railroad timetable or special instruction.

Medium Speed: A speed not exceeding 30 mph.

Reduced Speed: A speed that permits complying with flagging signals and stopping short of train or obstruction.

Restricted Speed: A speed that will permit stopping within half of the range of vision of equipment, also prepared to stop short of a switch not properly lined and in no case exceeding Slow Speed. At restricted speed, the engineer should be on the lookout for broken rails.

Slow Speed: A speed not exceeding 15 mph.

Special Instructions:

Instructions located in a time table or other publication that modify railroad operating rules and procedures.

Speed Restriction:

An imposed speed restriction of a train to below the maximum speed for the railroad, division, or subdivision, caused by track, signal, train equipment, or environmental conditions.

Spoil:

Material composed of a variety of rocks and minerals having different chemical and physical characteristics and in varying proportions and sizes.

Spur Track:

Side track that is connected at one end only to a running track. Some form of bumping post or other solid obstruction usually protects the other end.

Stakeholder:

A person or organization with an interest in or affected by FRA actions (representatives from Federal, state, tribal, or local agencies; members of Congress or state legislatures; unions; educational groups; environmental groups; industrial groups, etc.; and members of the general public).

Standard Gauge:

The distance between the rails of railway track. Standard gauge in North America is four feet eight and one-half inches (56-1/2 inches).

Station:

A location designated in the time table by name.

Subballast:

Any material of a superior character, which is spread on the finished subgrade of the roadbed and below the top ballast, to provide better drainage, prevent upheaval by frost, and better distribute the load over the roadbed.

Subgrade:

The finished surface of the roadbed below the ballast and track.

Superelevation:

As a train goes around a curve, the cars tend to tip towards the outside of the curve, especially with tall and top-heavy loads. To compensate, the outside rail is raised or superelevated to force the load back toward the inside of the curve. The amount of superelevation is determined by the degree of the curve and the intended train speed.

Surface (Track):

The condition of the track as to vertical evenness or smoothness. Track surface may need to be measured while under load, since some setting of the track can occur.

Switch:

A track structure used to divert rolling stock from one track to another.

Switching:

The physical movement of rail cars from one place to another within the limits of a yard, terminal or station.

T**Tail Room:**

In yard operations, the track space available to pull out of one track and then switch over to another. Desirable tail room is as long as the longest yard track.

Terminal Area:

A location that includes one or more yards together with the tracks connecting the yard or yards and the industries within that area.

Thalweg Elevation

The elevation of a stream channel bed at the deepest part of the channel.

Threatened Species:

A species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant part of its range.

Tie, Cross:

The transverse member of the track structure to which the rails are spiked or otherwise fastened to provide proper gauge and to cushion, distribute, and transmit the stresses of traffic through the ballast to the roadbed.

Tie, Switch:

The transverse member of the track structure, which is longer than but functions as does the crosstie and in addition supports a crossover or turnout.

Time Table:

The document, which contains subdivision information footnotes and special instructions relating to movements of trains, engines and track units.

Track:

An assembly of rails, ties, and fastenings over which cars, locomotives, and trains are moved.

Body: Each of the parallel tracks of a yard upon which cars are placed or stored.

Classification: One of the body tracks in a classification yard, or a track used for classification purposes.

Connecting: Two turnouts with the track between the frogs arranged to form a continuous passage between one track and another intersecting or oblique track or another remote parallel track.

Departure: Tracks where rail cars are classified and assembled into trains for line-haul movement.

House: A track alongside of, or entering a freight house, and used for cars receiving or delivering freight at the house.

Interchange: A track on which cars are delivered or received, as between railways.

Ladder: A track connecting successively the body tracks of a yard.

Lead: An extended track connecting either end of a yard with the main track.

Main Track: For the purposes of the Track Safety Standards, a track other than an auxiliary track extending through yards and between stations.

Passing: A track auxiliary to the main track for meeting or passing trains. Same as a Siding. The correct term to use is "Siding" for repairs.

Receiving Track: Tracks where incoming trains are received.

Running: A track reserved for movement through a yard.

Scale: A track leading to and from and passing over a track scale.

Side: A track auxiliary to the main track for purposes other than for meeting and passing trains.

Spur: A stub track diverging from a main or other track.

Storage: One of the body tracks in storage yards or one of the tracks used for storing equipment.

Stub: A track connected with another one at one end only.

Team: A track on which cars are placed for transfer of freight between cars and highway vehicles.

Wye: Railway tracks arranged in the form of a “Y” which are used for turning locomotives and rail cars in the opposite direction.

Track Gauge:

Measured at right angles, the distance between running rails of a track at the gauge lines, which are 5/8 inches below top of rail.

Train:

An engine or more than one engine coupled, with or without cars, or a track unit(s) so designated by its operating authority, displaying a marker(s).

Turnout:

An arrangement of a switch and a frog with closure rails, by means of which rolling stock may be diverted from one track to another.

U

Unique Farmland:

Land other than prime farmland that is used for the production of specific high-value food and fiber crops such as citrus, tree nuts, olives, cranberries, fruits and vegetables.

V

Viaduct:

A bridge that conveys a road or a railroad over a valley; often constructed of a series of arches supported by piers.

Viewshed:

A total field of vision or a vista. In particular, an area with visual boundaries seen from various points within the area.

W

Watershed:

The area that contributes water to a drainage system or stream.

Water Table:

(1)The upper limit of the saturated zone (the portion of the ground wholly saturated with water). (2)The upper surface of a zone of saturation above which the majority of pore spaces and fractures are less than 100% saturated with water most of the time (unsaturated zone) and below which the opposite is true (saturated zone).

Wetland:

An area of ground that is saturated with water either permanently or seasonally. A community composed of hydric soil and hydrophytes.

Wildlife Corridor:

A belt of habitat that is essentially free of physical barriers such as fences, walls, and development and connects two or more larger areas of habitat, allowing wildlife to move between physically separate areas.

Wood Trestle:

A wood structure composed of bents supporting stringers, the whole forming a support for loads applied to the stringers through the deck.

X

Y

Yard:

A system of tracks within defined limits provided for making up trains, storing cars, and other purposes, over which movements not authorized by time table or by train-order may be made, subject to prescribed signals and rules, or special instructions. Under freight yard, the definition is: "A network of tracks set aside for a railway's own working purpose, such as classification, switching and holding rail equipment." It is common to use the words yard and track interchangeable in some instances, but they are basically tracks used for a specific purpose and located within the yard limits.

Yard Limits:

That portion of the main track or main tracks within limits defined by yard limit signs.

Z